

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 DODE-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 AID-05

PC-01 /068 W

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O 291721Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

O RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3099

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, FR, PINT, PFOR, PINS

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AFP CORRESPONDENT

1. AFP BUREAU CHIEF JACQUES KAUFFMAN, A FRENCH NATIONAL, AND AFP NEWS DIRECTOR ENRIQUE GUZMAN, A CHILEAN, WERE DETAINED APRIL 26 AS THEY WERE RETURNING TO SANTIAGO FROM COVERING STORY SOME 80 KILOMETERS OUTSIDE OF THE CAPITAL. BOTH WERE BLINDFOLDED, TAKEN TO INTERROGATION CENTER, AND INTENSIVELY QUESTIONED. APPARENTLY THERE WAS NO TORTURE BUT TREATMENT WAS QUITE ROUGH. THEY WERE EVENTUALLY TAKEN TO TRES ALAMOS DETENTION CENTER WHERE THEY SPENT THE NIGHT. THEY WERE RELEASED APRIL 27 AFTER SIGNING STATEMENT ATTESTING TO THEIR "RESPECTFUL TREATMENT" BY GOC OFFICIALS.

2. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS APRIL 28 FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION AND CHILEAN REPORTERS GROUP ACCREDITED TO DIEGO PORTALES BUILDING (SEAF OF GOVT) PRESENTED ENERGETIC PROTESTS TO GOC SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR COL. ORLANDO JEREZ. BOTH GROUPS STRESSED THAT GOC SECURITY FORCES HAD NOT HONORED
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PRESS CREDENTIALS ISSUED BY GOC ITSELF, AS

WELL AS BRUTALITY OF TREATMENT. JEREZ PROMISED AN "EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION" OF AFFAIR AND REPORTEDLY VOWED THAT "WHOEVER WAS RESPONSIBLE WILL BE PUNISHED."

3. RESIDENT AMCIT AP BUREAU CHIEF CONFIRMED ALL PARTICULARS AND STATED THAT WIRE SERVICES HAD GIVEN HEAVY PLAY TO KAUFFMAN/GUEMAN DETENTION. HE NOTED THAT SIMILAR MISFORTUNE COULD BEFALL ON HIM

IRANY OTHER FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT AT ANY TIME, AND HE HOPED USG WOULD TAKE NOTE OF SITUATION.

4. FRENCH DCM TOLD EMBOFF THA KAUFFMAN HAD GIVEN FULL REPORT TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR UPON RELEASE WHO IN TURN HAD REPORTED TO PARIS. HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT REPRESENTATIONS IF ANY EMBASSY WILL

TAKE. HE DID, HOWEVER, LINK KAUFFMAN CASE TO RECENT DETENTION OF FRENCH CITIZEN TEACHER IN SANTIAGO AND GOC CLOSING OF FRENCH CULTURAL EXHIBITION, (SANTIAGO 2776) ALL OF WHICH LED HIM TO WONDER "WHAT GOC HAS IN MIND."

5. COMMENT:
INCIDENT WILL PROBABLY BE USED, ESPECIALLY IN FRANCE, TO BUTTRESS ARGUMENT OF CONTINUED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHILE. IT IS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF FREE-WHEELING INTERNAL SECURITY PERSONNEL EMBARRASSING GOC AT WORST POSSIBLE MOMENT FOR IT.
POPPER

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